

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday May 27, 2014
DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2014 special meeting. The Town Clerk noted the distributed draft was dated incorrectly. The motion to approve, as amended, passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 regular meeting. Mr. Shapiro noted a correction and a clarification of his participation in the executive session. The motion to approve, as amended, passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Gary Bent, Mansfield Hollow Road, also speaking for his wife, spoke in favor of the Safe Routes to School Grant for Southeast School, noting their disappointment in the Council's previous action. Mr. Bent itemized a number of benefits the walkway would provide to both students and other residents and urged the Council to reconsider.

Jonathan Sgro, Browns Road, spoke in support of the Safe Routes to School Grant, commenting on how dangerous it currently is to walk along Rte. 89. Mr. Sgro was surprised at the Council's action and has spoken to many parents who are in favor of the sidewalk.

Amanda Hanzlick, Sumner Drive, Community School for the Arts instructor and EOSmith Choral Director, asked the Council to consider the proposed collaboration as the arts are essential to the health of a community. Ms. Hanzlick believes the collaborative efforts will make the program stronger, more visible and vibrant.

Jim LoMonaco, Wormwood Hill Road, called the rejection of the sidewalk project unfortunate and urged the Council to reconsider their decision. Mr. LoMonaco noted that without a sidewalk there are many missed opportunities that both children and others could take advantage of in the immediate area.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, echoed the comments of some of the previous speakers and urged the Council to reconsider their decision on the sidewalk. Mr. Anderson stated that he fully understands the need for responsible budgeting but now that the Town is in a better situation it is important to keep the Town moving forward.

Patricia Lofman, Davis Road, requested the Council support the collaborative efforts of the Town and the Community School for the Arts. She noted the Town has a long standing history in support of children.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, expressed his objections to proposed regulations which would prevent smoking in Town parks. Mr. Smith believes the opportunity to exercise should be available to all.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager responded to questions raised by Arthur Smith in a previous letter (appended to the 5/12/2014 minutes)

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson recognized the efforts of Jesse Shea, Phil Richard, Mary Hirsch and Joanne Roberts who placed a rose on the gravestones of over 300 veterans in the Town's cemeteries.

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The Mayor noted the passing of long time Mansfield resident Madge Manfred. Ms. Manfred served as President of Joshua's Trust, was a docent at the Benton museum, and was active in the community.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to add Item 3a, Setting the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to add Item 8a, Safe Routes to School – Southeast Elementary School Walkway, to the agenda. The motion passed with all in favor except Kegler and Raymond who were in opposition.

Ms. Wassmundt distributed copies of a 4/10/2012 Ten Year CIP Conceptual Outlay Plan listing aerial apparatus at a cost of \$1,000,000. (Supplemental Materials 5/27/2014)
Mr. Kochenburger commented that the fire truck purchase was never actually proposed but is shown in the document as a potential future initiative.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Item 6, Collaboration with Community School for the Arts, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager reported the Price Chopper is scheduled to open on June 6, 2014 and the Town Square is now open. Mr. Hart commended both the Public Works Department and the contractors for their work on the Square.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues, Four corners Water and Wastewater Project

The Town Manager reviewed highlights of the May 21, 2014 Public Information Session sponsored by the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee. The project schedule shows that more detailed information on project costs and assessments will be available in July.

3. Proposed Amendments to Parks Rules and Regulations; Program Sponsorship Signs and Banners

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective May 27, 2014, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 9, 2014, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter A194 of the Parks Rules and Regulations.

Motion passed unanimously.

3a.To Set the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Tax Rate for the Town of Mansfield for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 be set at 27.95 mills, and the Collector of Revenue be authorized and directed to prepare and mail to each taxpayer tax bills in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and that such taxes shall be due and payable July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. CodeRED Presentation

IT Director Jamie Russell and Deputy Chief Fran Raiola presented information on how the new CodeRed system operates and how to register for alerts. It was suggested a tutorial be created and posted on the Town's website. Staff urged all members of the audience and those watching at home to sign up.

5. Environmental Impact Evaluations, UCONN STEM Residence Hall and Engineering/Science Building

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded effective May 27, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to co-sign the attached comments to the University of Connecticut regarding the Environmental Impact Evaluations for the new STEM Residence Hall and the Engineering and Science Building provided the letters are amended to include the comments recommended by the Conservation Commission.

Jason Coite, UConn Office of Environmental Policy and Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter reviewed the comments offered by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Conservation Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Collaboration with Community School for the Arts

Brie Grant, Dean of the UConn School of Fine Arts, and Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that they have been investigating possible collaborative opportunities between the two entities. A Memorandum of Understanding will be presented to the Council for review, if a viable business plan is deemed possible.

7. Appointment of Sub-registrar

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, effective May 30, 2014, to appoint Phillip M. Pietras of the Tolland County Funeral Home as a sub-registrar for the Town of Mansfield, for a term to run concurrent with that of the Mansfield Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Ashford, Connecticut 300th Anniversary

Following a discussion, Council members agreed to have the Town Manager put together a group tasked with determining a venue for Mansfield's participation in this event. Council members supported the idea of asking the Ballard Puppet Museum to participate as well as the E.O. Smith Band.

8a. Safe Routes to School – Southeast Elementary School Walkway

Director of Public Works John Carrington and Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter presented an overview of the Safe Routes to School plan.

Mr. Marcellino moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following motion: WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield broadly publicized a public informational meeting for the proposed Safe Routes to School Southeast Elementary School Walkway project on Route 89 through direct mail to property owners in the project area, PTO notification of Southeast parents, flyers at the public library, Town Manager reports and website postings; and

WHEREAS, a public informational meeting was held on March 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Southeast Elementary School auditorium, 134 Warrenville Road, at which meeting residents had an opportunity to voice their opinions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received additional community feedback since the April 15, 2014 meeting expressing support for the walkway project and grant; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has considered the concerns of residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed project is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield, and will promote public health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide convenience and safety for the travelling public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Town of Mansfield hereby fully supports the proposed Southeast School Walkway project based upon the above information.

Council members discussed the most recent budget figures, the adjusted cost estimates, the safety of a sidewalk along Route 89, and the number of pedestrians who would use the walkway.

The motion passed with Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, and Shapiro in favor, Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt opposed, and Ryan abstained.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Chair Bill Ryan commended the Finance Department for the work they did on the budget.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. G. Bent re: Sidewalk Grant

10.J. Sgro re: Southeast School Walkway

11.Mansfield Conservation Commission re: University of Connecticut Master Planning Effort - During the Community/Campus Relations agenda item the Town Manager and Director of Planning, who both serve on the Master Planning Committee, will provide a detailed update on the status of the Master Plan. Additionally, a future meeting will be scheduled as an opportunity for the Council to provide feedback on this letter and other draft materials.

12.F. Baruzzi re: FY 2014/15 Budget

13.State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: 2012 Equalized Net Grand List

14.Professional Services Agreement Between the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut and O'Malley, Deneen, Leary, Messina & Oswecki

15.Connecticut Water re: Water System Advisory Committee – The Committee on Committees will make recommendations to the Council for the Mansfield resident member. The Town Clerk will request recommendations from the Conservation Commission, the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

16.Northeast Utilities System re: Notice of Intent to File Amended Rate Schedules by the Connecticut Light and Power Company

17.Connecticut Water – In Your Community – April 2014

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Kochenburger requested the answer to two questions prior to the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Parks Rules and Regulations:

- Did the review of the Recreation Advisory Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission include the no smoking language?
- If following the public hearing the Council wished to eliminate a proposed change would an additional public hearing be required?

The Town Manager will provide an answer to the first question but stated the Council can amend the regulation following the public hearing without an additional public hearing.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran second to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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